

April 2011 Beautification Winner Jim and Ruthie Shook Hitching Post Road

Almost a quarter century has passed since Jim Shook moved into this mid-century modern home, designed by Robert Smith, and built on a quiet road overlooking the ravines of Happy Hollow Park. The landscape features mature trees and shrubs, among them oakleaf hydrangeas and viburnums. There are hundreds of daffodil bulbs planted in spreads along the side yard and the front yard. A driveway separates part of the front yard, making a self-contained island planting with a flag pole. The home fits well into the shady property and the many windows overlooking the ravine give year-round viewing of birds and wildlife.

A large bed of ferns was created with transplants from a cabin in Michigan, and soon a French lilac will be planted, also with family connections. A mature rhododendron has found a place that saves it from Indiana winters and it blooms reliably every spring. Jim has retained rose bushes in the front garden as part of a family tradition, but most of the front yard was revitalized last fall by Zebra Landscape. Jim and Ruthie are looking forward to seeing the new look of their evolving landscape. The long tradition of great gardens is continuing on Hitching Post Road.